

Message Text

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TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJ: BORDER TV PROBLEM

1. FOLLOWING ARE GLEANINGS FROM THREE CONVERSATIONS
ON BORDER TV ISSUE:

2. ROYCE FRITH, LOCAL LAWYER FOR KVOS BELLINGHAM,
TOLD ECON COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD DINNER ON JULY 29
WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS SAUVE, WHOM HE DESCRIBED
AS FRIEND AND POLITICAL SSOCIATE OF 20 YEARS. FRITH
SAID HE CALLED SAUVE'S ATTENTION TO SENATORIAL LETTER
TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND STRESSED POSSIBLE SERIOUS
CONSEQUENCES FOR CANADA IF CANADA IGNORED U.S.
SENSITIVITIES ON BORDER TV QUESTION. SAUVE INDICATED
CLEARLY TO FRITH THAT SHE INTENDED TO PROCLAIM BORAD-
CASTING PROVISIONS OF BILL C-58 VERY SHORTLY AFTER
MID-AUGUST DEADLINE SHE HAS FIXED FOR RECEIPT OF
COMMENTS FROM BROADCASTERS AND ADVERTISERS. ACCORDING
TO FRITH, SAUVE SAID "I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN DELAY."
FRITH SAID HE POINTED OUT FALL ADVERTISING SCHEDULES
WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN SET AND FEW MONTHS DELAY IN
PROCLAMATION WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EFFECT.
FINALLY, FRITH SAID SAUVE HAD OBVIOUSLY SEEN WIRE
SERVICE REPORTS ON SENATORIAL LETTER BEFORE THEIR

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DINNER AND GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LETTER

HAD STRENGTHENED HER RESOLVE "NOT TO CAVE IN." HE HOPED THEIR CONVERSATION HAD CONVINCED HER THAT THE MATTER WAS TOO SERIOUS TO DECIDE WITHOUT MORE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION JULY 30, ALLAN O'BRIEN, LOCAL LAWYER REPRESENTING BUFFALO STATIONS, CONFIRMED GENERAL VIEW THAT SAUVE INTENDS TO PROCLAIM BROADCASTING PROVISIONS OF BILL C-58 ON OR ABOUT SEPT 1. O'BRIEN SAID SEVERAL ADVERTISING AND BROADCASTING INTERESTS WOULD BE MAKING WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO SAUVE BY AUGUST 16 AND SOME OF THESE WILL REQUEST THAT SHE HOLD ORAL HEARINGS AS WELL BEFORE MAKING DECISION. O'BRIEN WAS UPSET AT LACK OF PUBLICITY IN CANADA TO SENATORIAL LETTER. HE THOUGHT ISSUANCE IN WASHINGTON BY PRESS RELEASE HAD BEEN BADLY HANDLED. (SUBSEQUENTLY, GLOBE AND MAIL AND GAZETTE CARRIED BRIEF CP WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON INSIDE UNDER HEADLINES REFERRING TO RETALIATION AND COUNTERACTION).

4. WHITTLETON, USA DIVISION, EXTAFF, HOPES IN NEXT DAY OR SO TO BE ABLE TO PROPOSE DATE FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MEETING EITHER WEEK OF AUGUST 16 OR ON EITHER AUGUST 30 OR 31. IN RESPONSE TO ECON COUNSELOR'S QUESTION, WHITTLETON SAID THE WAY GOC POSITION FOR MEETING IS SHAPING UP GOC WILL NOT BE PUTTING FORWARD "SOLID ALTERNATIVES" BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO OUTLINE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES THAT IT HAS LOOKED AT AND INDICATE SOME OF PROBLEMS IT SEES WITH THEM.

5. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GOC WILL MOVE ON BILL C-58 BEFORE NEXT BILATERAL MEETING BUT CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT BROADCAST PROVISIONS WILL BE PROCLAIMED SHORTLY THEREAFTER UNLESS GOC CAN BE CONVINCED AT MEETING OF WISDOM OF FURTHER DELAY.
ENDERS

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